GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION
LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:3808
ANSWERED ON:17.08.2001
MOVEMENT OF FOODGRAINS
SULTAN SALAHUDDIN OWAISI

Will the Minister of CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government of Andhra Pradesh has requested the Union Government to issueinstruction to Food Corporation of India to move additional quantity of 3 lakh tonnes of boiled rice over the normal movement to reduce the pressure on godown space for receiving levy rice by FCI in the State;

(b) if so, the details thereof and action taken on the request of Andhra Pradesh;

(c) whether FCI is facing acute storage facilities in Andhra Pradesh; and

(d) if so, the steps taken by the Government for smooth movement of rice from one State to other to reduce pressue on storage capacity of FCI?

Answer

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION(SHRI SRIRAM CHAUHAN)

(a)&(b): Yes Sir. The Government of Andhra Pradesh had requested the Union Government in May, 2001 to issue instructions to FCI to move additional quantity of 3 lakh tonnes of boiled rice per month, over and above the normal movement to reduce the pressure on godown space for receiving levy rice by FCI in Andhra Pradesh, but the request could not be acceded to.It was explained to the Government of Andhra Pradesh that FCI is finding it extremely difficult to sustain the desired level of movement from various procuring States on account of saturation of storage capacity, but it would be endeavouring to optimize procurement and movement. Despite several constraints about 2.97 lakh tonnes of rice per month was moved out of Andhra Pradesh during April - June 2001, as against 2.39 lakh MTs per month during 2000-01 and 2.36 lakh MTs during 1999-2000.

(c): Yes, Sir. FCI is facing acute shortage of storage facilities in Andhra Pradesh as inmost of the foodgrains procuring States. In order to create additional storage space for rice, FCI has been allowed to get about 15 lakh MTs of additional storage capacity created through the State Government on 7 years` Guarantee Basis in Andhra Pradesh.

(d): In order to improve lifting and movement of foodgrains from the FCI stocks, apart fromallocations of foodgrains under various welfare schemes like Antyodaya Anna Yojana, Food for Work, Annapurana Yojana etc., Government has also raised the allocation of BPL families from 20 kg to 25 kg per family per month. Central Issue Prices of foodgrains for APL families have also been reduced.